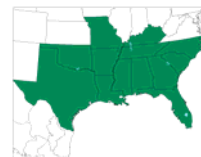


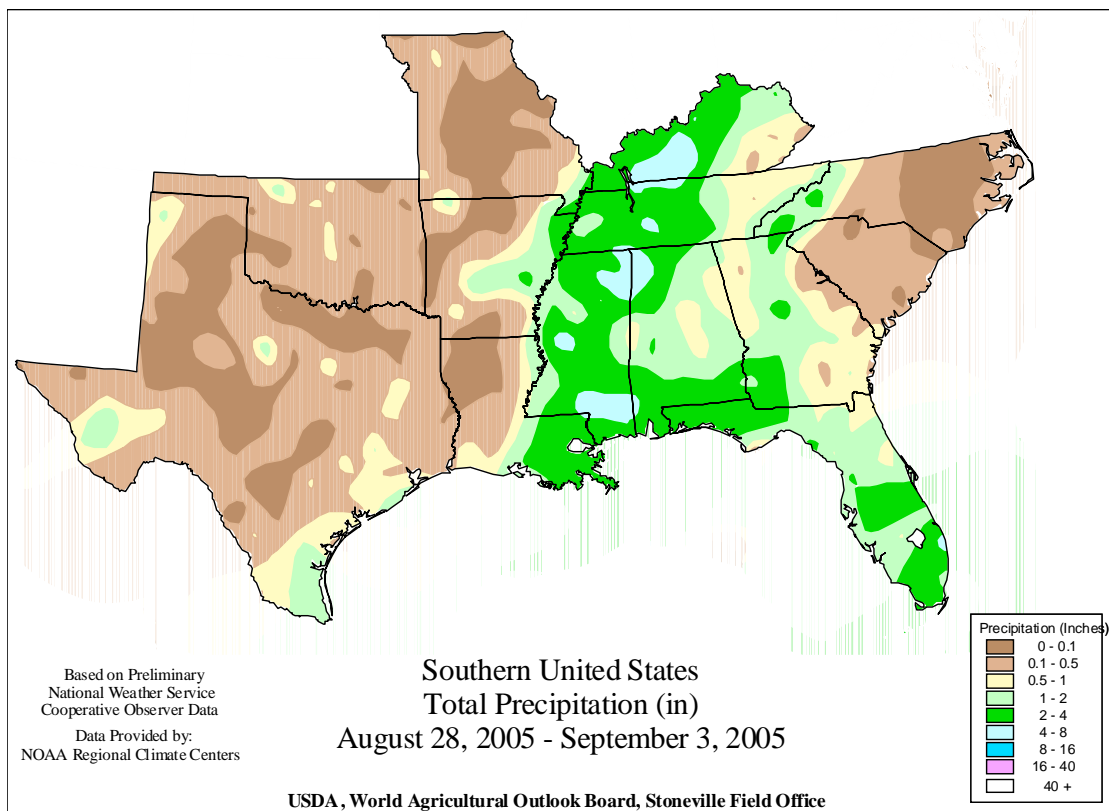


**Office of the Chief Economist
World Agricultural Outlook Board
Stoneville Field Office**



WEEKLY AGRICULTURAL WEATHER REPORT

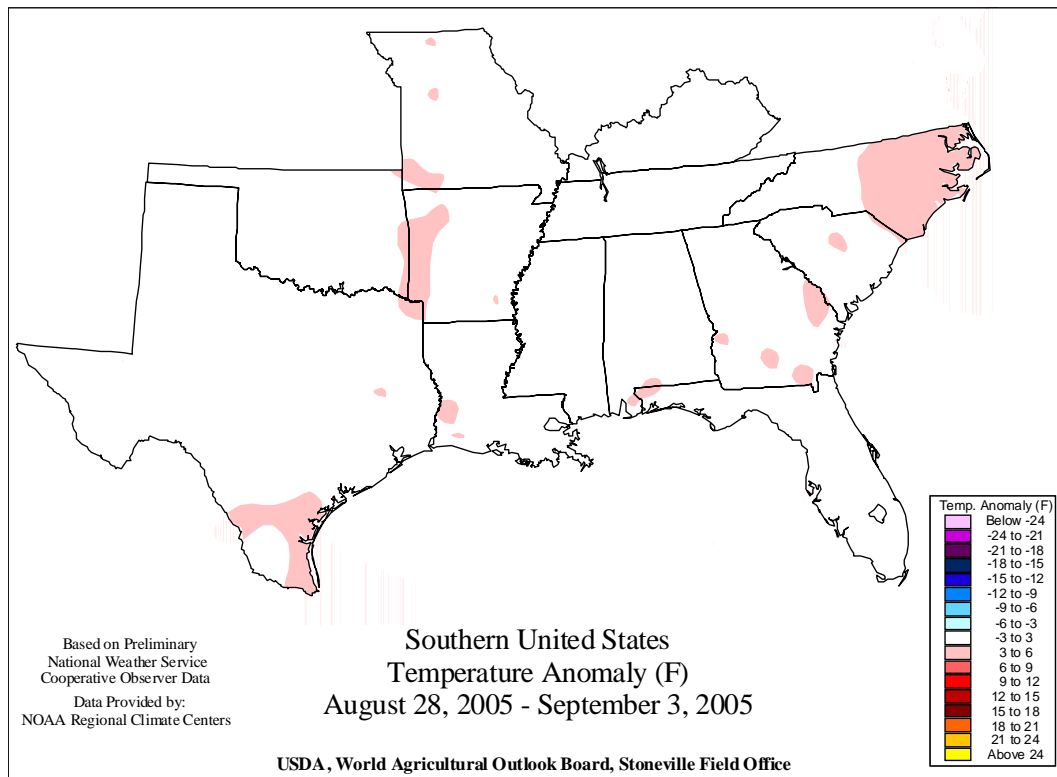
August 28 to September 3, 2005



Weather Highlights

Hurricane Katrina was last week's highlight, making landfall as a category 4 hurricane on the Louisiana and Mississippi Gulf Coast. Katrina brought sustained winds estimated at 140 mph, with higher gusts, and rain in excess of 4 inches to parts of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, and Kentucky. Elsewhere, isolated rain showers were scarce west and east of Katrina's path.

Weekly temperatures averaged near normal in most areas across the southern United States. Some exceptions were areas in the Southern U.S., along with the eastern half of North Carolina, where temperatures remained above normal for the week.



In the Mississippi Delta, normal temperatures accompanied high winds and thunderstorms during the passage of Hurricane Katrina. The majority of the Delta received 1 to 4 inches of rain from Katrina, although some areas received more. Winds during the storm were sustained between 30 and 40 mph, with higher gusts reported over most of the Delta. Crops impacts from the wind and rain included some crop lodging.

(For additional information, contact Bart Freeland at 662-686-3280)

Agricultural Summary

United States Crop Progress Report*					
Week Ending					
		September 4, 2005	August 28, 2005	September 4, 2004	2000-2004 Average
		Percent			
Cotton	Bolls Opening	30	19	34	40
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	64	65	70	---
Corn	Dough	96	91	87	93
	Dented	79	61	59	69
	Mature	20	11	16	22
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	51	52	69	---
Rice	Harvested	24	16	27	27
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	57	61	73	---
Soybeans	Dropping Leaves	15	6	14	15
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	54	53	62	---
*Source: USDA/National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)					
"---" = Not Reported					

Cotton:

Bolls were open on 30 percent of the acreage nationally, compared with 34 percent last year and 40 percent for the 5-year average. Of the southern states, only Arkansas was ahead of their 5-year average boll opening pace. Harvest began in Louisiana, equal to their 5-year average pace with 3 percent harvested. Nationally, crop conditions declined 1 percentage point from the previous week to 64 percent of the crop rated good to excellent. Crop conditions declined in Mississippi due to Hurricane Katrina's wind and rain.

Corn:

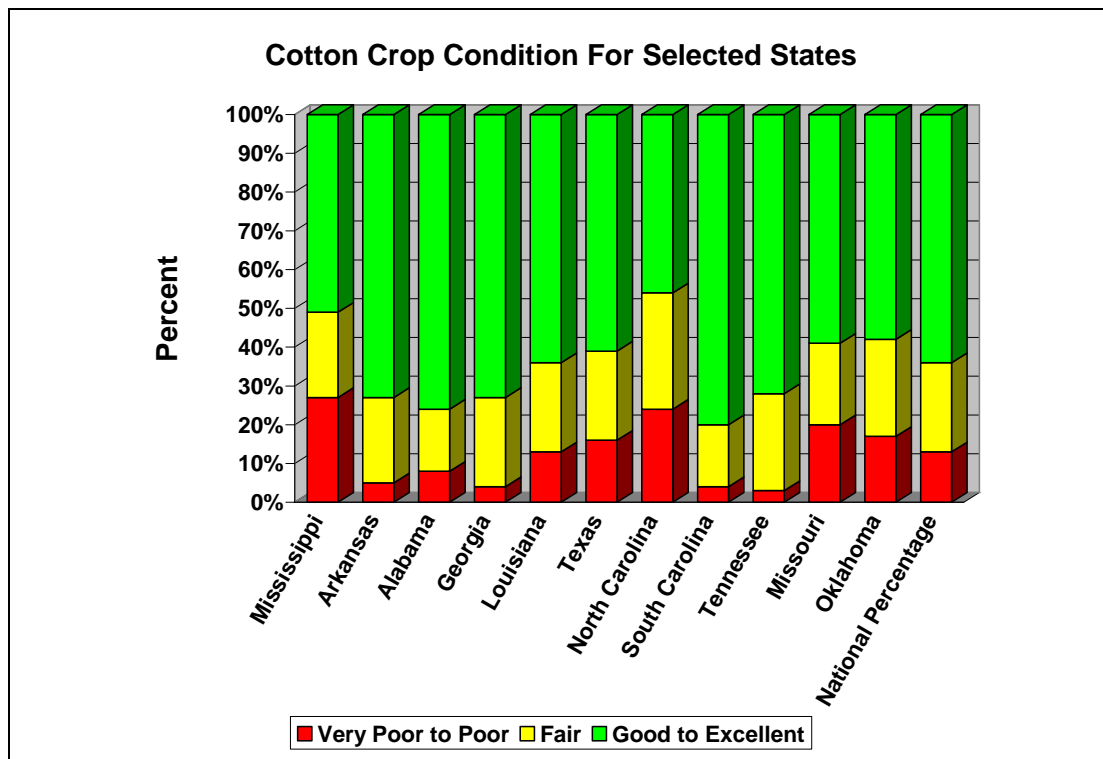
Seventy-nine percent of the nation's crop was in the dent stage, 20 points ahead of last year and 10 points ahead of the 5-year average. Crop acreage in the good to excellent category declined 1 point from the previous week to 51 percent. Harvest continued in the majority of the southern states. Hurricane Katrina lodged some of the corn crop in its path in the southern states.

Rice:

Nationally, 24 percent of the acreage had been harvested, 3 points behind both last year's and the 5-year average pace. Fifty-seven percent of the nation's crop was rated good to excellent, a 4 point decline from the previous week. Mississippi's good to excellent crop conditions declined 16 points from the previous week, due to lodging from Hurricane Katrina. The harvest continued in all of the southern states.

Soybeans:

Nationally, 15 percent of the soybean acres were dropping leaves, 1 point ahead of last year and equal to the 5-year average progress. Progress was most advanced in Mississippi and Louisiana, where 65 percent and 50 percent of the crop, respectively, was dropping leaves. Crop conditions improved 1 point from the previous week, to 54 percent of the crop rated good to excellent. Condition of the Mississippi crop declined due to winds and heavy rainfall from Katrina.



Cotton Conditions by State:

Nationally, 64 percent of the cotton acreage was rated good to excellent, a 1 point decline from the previous week. Mississippi, at 51 percent good to excellent, reduced their good to excellent crop rating by 14 percentage points after Hurricane Katrina brought heavy rain and wind to the cotton producing areas of the state. Louisiana's cotton acres, at 64 percent good to excellent, escaped Katrina's wrath and improved 14 points from the previous week. South Carolina, with 80 percent of their crop rated good to excellent, had the best crop conditions of all the southern states. North Carolina's crop declined 3 points to 46 percent of their acres rated good to excellent, the lowest of any southern state.

(For additional information, contact Bart Freeland at 662-686-3280)